

Filed for intro on 02/02/2000

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 580
By Kurita

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the members of Det 1,
133rd Public Affairs Detachment for meritorious
service.

WHEREAS, our country was conceived by individuals willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure this nation's freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to have so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, eight such individuals continued this time-honored tradition of heroism through service in the 133rd Public Affairs Detachment when it was deployed to Bosnia from March 15, 1999-October 15, 1999; and

WHEREAS, the eight unit members, who performed their obligations with the utmost integrity, probity and industry deserve to be recognized by name: Captain Robert W. Catlin, Sr. (commander), Captain Miles L. Elder (press officer), Staff Sergeant Christina Judkins, Staff

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Sergeant Gary C. Chancey, Staff Sergeant Roy Walden, Sergeants Michael and Jennifer Koentop, and Specialist Brian Covert; and

WHEREAS, the Det 1, 133rd Public Affairs Detachment has served with courage and gallantry and deserves proper recognition for their heroism in supporting of United States peacekeeping forces in Bosnia; and

WHEREAS, the Det 1, 133rd Public Affairs Detachment served with great bravery and ability, as exemplified by Specialist Brian Covert, who produced a video warning children of the ongoing dangers posed by land mines; this video is still used in Bosnian schools to this day; and

WHEREAS, the Det 1, 133rd Public Affairs Detachment was charged with providing media and public affairs support to the 6,200 American soldiers from the 30,000-strong NATO-led peacekeeping force, in addition to providing media escort to Bosnian, international, and U.S. news media members, including reporters from the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*; and

WHEREAS, the unit was deployed to four base camps throughout Bosnia, where they produced 60 television stories, over 100 radio stories, and over 150 print stories; and

WHEREAS, the two officers of the 133rd Public Affairs Detachment served as primary staff members to two of the three U.S. task force commanders in Bosnia; and

WHEREAS, the Det 1, 133rd Public Affairs Detachment prepared information programs for Bosnian radio and television which became an important source of information during the NATO bombing campaign of neighboring Serbia; and

WHEREAS, the member of Det 1, 133rd bravely encountered the harsh realities of the air war, as they were the peacekeepers who were targeted by Yugoslavian fighter jets when they crossed the border in late March; their efforts helped alleviate tension existing between Bosnian Serbs and U.S. peacekeepers during this tense period; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of the Det 1, 133rd Public Affairs Detachment were described by United States' Army-Europe officials as the strongest rotation for both print and broadcast productions; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Det 1, 133rd Public Affairs Detachment performed their duties with the utmost skill, dedication and professionalism; their service can only be categorized as outstanding and the absolute paragon of excellence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend the members of Det 1, 133rd Public Affairs Detachment for their meritorious service to NATO Peacekeeping Operations in Bosnia, including the provision of media and public affairs support, and media relations and escort; We offer our thanks for a difficult job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.